

**Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Rudy Anderson**  
**Los Angeles Police Department**

**Officer Eddie Roca, #30565**  
**Officer Luis Valle, #39185**

**J.S.I.D. File #21-0427**



**GEORGE GASCÓN**  
**District Attorney**

**Justice System Integrity Division**  
**June 5, 2023**

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: CAPTAIN RICH GABALDON  
Los Angeles Police Department  
Force Investigation Division  
100 West First Street, Suite 431  
Los Angeles, California 90012

FROM: JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION  
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Rudy Anderson  
J.S.I.D. File #21-0427  
F.I.D. File #F056-21

DATE: June 5, 2023

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the October 8, 2021, fatal shooting of Rudy Anderson by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officers Eddie Roca and Luis Valle. We have concluded that Officers Roca and Valle acted lawfully in self-defense and defense of others.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on October 8, 2021, at 8:15 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded to the location and was given a briefing and walk-through of the scene.

The following analysis is based on investigative reports, ballistics reports, an autopsy report, a gunshot wound analysis report, 9-1-1 recordings, transcripts of interviews, crime scene diagrams, body worn video camera (BWV) evidence, surveillance video evidence, photographic evidence, and witness statements submitted to this office by LAPD Force Investigation Division (FID) Detective Timo Illig. Roca and Valle's compelled statements were not considered as part of this analysis.

### **FACTUAL ANALYSIS**

On October 8, 2021, at approximately 3:45 p.m., a man, later identified as Rudy Anderson, walked up behind [REDACTED] in the area of Eighth Street and South Broadway in downtown Los Angeles. According to [REDACTED], as he turned to face Anderson, Anderson pressed the barrel of a revolver against his right cheek and pulled the trigger. The firearm failed to discharge, and Anderson walked away. Approximately fifteen minutes later, Anderson approached [REDACTED] as she sat in the driver's seat of her vehicle in front of a business located at 639 Spring Street. According to [REDACTED], Anderson lifted his shirt and brandished a handgun in his waistband before unsuccessfully attempting to open her locked driver's side door. Anderson then fled the location on foot.

Five minutes later, a family walking in the 700 block of South Broadway Avenue thought Anderson was following them. The family entered a clothing store to avoid having contact with Anderson. Anderson followed them into the store, drew a small revolver from his waistband, and began firing multiple rounds toward the family members. One round struck a 14-year-old boy in the temple area of his head as he ran toward the rear of the store.<sup>1</sup> Anderson then fled the store on foot. Approximately five minutes later, Anderson approached [REDACTED] while [REDACTED] rode his bicycle in the intersection of Seventh Street and Spring Street. Anderson knocked [REDACTED] to the ground and attempted to take his bike. When [REDACTED] refused to let go, Anderson drew a handgun from his waistband. According to [REDACTED], Anderson noticed security officers nearby and ran away.

LAPD Communications Division received several 9-1-1 calls and dispatched numerous LAPD units in response to Anderson's conduct.<sup>2</sup> At approximately 4:11 p.m., LAPD officers arrived at the intersection of Seventh Street and Spring Street.<sup>3</sup> Security officers pointed toward Anderson and informed the LAPD officers he was armed with a firearm. Officers drew their duty weapons and walked toward Anderson, who ran east on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and then north on Main Street. Additional officers arrived in the area and pursued Anderson on foot. Anderson ignored repeated orders to "Get on the ground!" and entered an apartment complex on South Main Street. Officers followed Anderson into the building's entrance but stopped their pursuit after Anderson ran through the lobby and up a stairway. LAPD set up a containment of the building.

At approximately 4:57 p.m., LAPD personnel accessed the building's surveillance video. In the video, Anderson can be seen grabbing a woman, later identified as [REDACTED], in the fourth-floor hallway and forcefully pulling her toward an apartment.



*Figure 1 – Still image taken from the apartment building surveillance video depicting Anderson grabbing [REDACTED]*

<sup>1</sup> The bullet did not penetrate the boy's skull, and the injury was not life-threatening.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, responding officers wore distinct LAPD uniforms and were equipped with BWV.

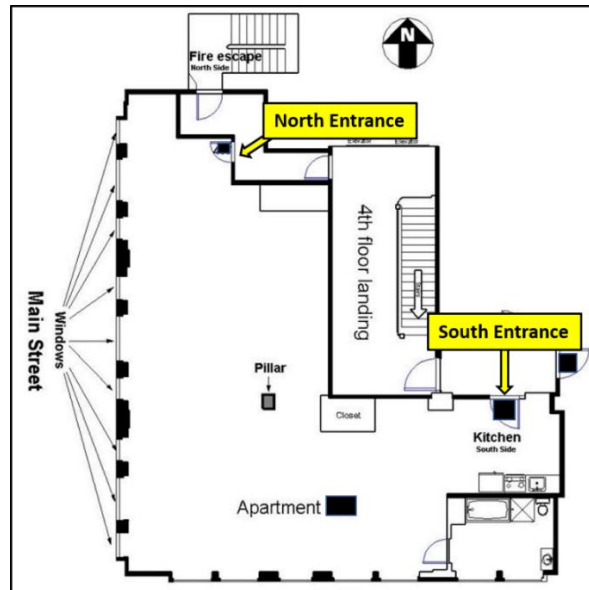
<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, the times of the events were derived from officers' BWV.



*Figure 2 – Still image taken from the apartment surveillance video depicts Anderson pulling ██████ down the hallway.*

██████ said she was alone in her friend’s apartment when she heard police sirens and helicopters outside. As she looked out the window to see what was going on, she heard “the door bust open.” When ██████ saw Anderson, she thought he had accidentally entered the wrong apartment and tried to get him to leave. Anderson looked “panicked” and began speaking but “wasn’t making much sense.” Anderson asked her for a belt for his pants and told her, “They’re trying to kill me.”

██████ exited the apartment to get away from Anderson, but he followed her. Anderson asked ██████ to help him get out of the building and asked if there was a fire escape or basement. ██████ suggested he go to the elevator while she stayed at the apartment, but Anderson refused. ██████ stated, “At that point, [Anderson] was just taking me with him everywhere he went. He was, like, grabbing me by my arms and stuff.” Eventually, ██████ sat on the stairs between two floors and refused to walk with Anderson. Anderson removed a “small” revolver from his front pocket and pointed it at her chest. Anderson then led ██████ back into her friend’s apartment.



*Figure 3 – Diagram depicting the apartment layout where Anderson held ██████ hostage. The two entrances to the apartment are labeled in yellow.*

Based on the surveillance video of ██████ being held against her will, LAPD SWAT officers were informed of a barricaded suspect armed with a gun and responded to the location. SWAT teams were assembled and positioned at both doors to the apartment, including Officers Roca and Valle near the south entrance.<sup>4</sup> SWAT officers heard sounds consistent with Anderson barricading the entry doors as they stood in the hallway. According to ██████, Anderson barricaded the north door with a filing cabinet and the south door with a large cement table top. In response, SWAT officers placed explosive charges on both doors leading into the apartment.

At approximately 6:40 p.m., Detective Thayer Lake met with the tenant of the involved apartment and was shown the hallway surveillance video. The tenant identified ██████ as his house guest and stated he did not know Anderson. The tenant indicated he had been calling ██████, but she had not answered her phone. Shortly thereafter, Lake was standing outside when he looked up at the fourth-floor apartment’s windows.<sup>5</sup> According to Lake, Anderson “pull[ed] a female into the view—in the center window of the west facing window, and he’s clearly got a gun to her head.” A neighbor across Main Street recorded the incident (Twitter video).<sup>6</sup> In the Twitter video, a person can be heard saying, “He’s got a gun to someone’s head!”

<sup>4</sup> SWAT personnel wore dark blue utility uniforms, tactical vests, and ballistic helmets. Each officer was equipped with BWV and armed with an LAPD-approved rifle and handgun.

<sup>5</sup> Lake was not wearing a BWV camera.

<sup>6</sup> The video was posted to Twitter. The Twitter account’s owner did not respond to requests to be interviewed by LAPD investigators.



*Figure 4 – Still image taken from the Twitter video depicting Anderson holding a gun to ██████'s head. The inset is a photograph of the revolver used by Anderson and later recovered by LAPD investigators.*

█████ explained what happened inside the apartment at that time:

He [Anderson] was like, 'I'm going to need you to role-play with me for a second.' And I didn't know what he meant by that, and he grabbed me, like, really aggressively and, like, put me up against the window and was like, 'I'm going to kill this bitch!' and, like, started hitting me with the gun, and everybody [on the street outside] started screaming.

Anderson was "really digging" the gun into her face, and she thought she was "about to get shot." ██████ said Anderson repeatedly screamed, "I'll kill this bitch!" At approximately 6:44 p.m., SWAT officers stationed outside the apartment doors were advised via radio, "He's at the window. He's got a gun to her head. It's her [█████], one-hundred percent, inside the apartment."<sup>7</sup>

At approximately 6:45 p.m., SWAT detonated charges at both entry doors. In the Twitter video, an explosion and flash of light come from the south door area, immediately followed by an explosion and flash of light near the north door. Anderson ran near the north door, and two loud sounds can be heard. According to ██████, Anderson "start[ed] firing" his handgun in an unknown direction.<sup>8</sup> Anderson then ran back to the middle of the apartment, grabbed ██████, and headed toward the south door.

<sup>7</sup> This radio transmission is recorded.

<sup>8</sup> It is unknown if Anderson discharged his revolver at this time.





*Figure 5 – Still image taken from the Twitter video depicting Anderson moving toward the south door with [REDACTED]*

SWAT officers could not enter the apartment through the north entrance due to the filing cabinet blocking the entryway; however, they were able to enter through the south door. As Anderson headed toward the south door, Officer Howard Ng threw a flash-bang device through the south entrance and into the apartment.<sup>9</sup> Roca entered the apartment first, followed by Officers Ng, Joseph Dominguez, Royce Burroughs, Valle, Guy Dobine, Bruce Adam, Steve Hernandez, Jonathan Pultz, Jose Martinez, Phillip Peery, and Enrique Anzaldo.<sup>10</sup> As the officers entered the apartment, [REDACTED] screamed, and Anderson yelled, “I’m going to kill this bitch! I’m gonna kill her!”<sup>11</sup> In the Twitter video, the illumination from Roca’s rifle-mounted light can be seen as Anderson moves away from the south side of the apartment and squats down on the ground with [REDACTED]

According to [REDACTED], she and Anderson got down on the ground behind a pillar near the center of the apartment. She was unsure how Anderson was holding her but recalled they were facing one another “almost” in a fetal position, and she believed Anderson may have been “trying to protect himself.” [REDACTED] stated Anderson, “[S]et me down there, and he got down there, and the gun was pointed at me, but we were, like, crouched together, like hiding.” [REDACTED] explained, “I’m covering my face at this point, too, and just like screaming and crying.” She heard the officers coming through the door and believed Anderson had fired a shot.<sup>12</sup> [REDACTED]

<sup>9</sup> A loud explosion and bright light flash can be heard and seen coming from the south door area in the Twitter video.

<sup>10</sup> Prior to entering the apartment, Roca staged in the building’s hallway. As he held his rifle in front of his chest with his right hand, he adjusted the optic with his left hand. While Roca adjusted the optic, part of the rifle appeared to press against the BWV camera before the camera turned off. Roca’s BWV was not on at the time of the officer-involved shooting; however, parts of the incident were recorded by other officers’ BWV.

<sup>11</sup> [REDACTED]’s screams and Anderson’s threats can be heard on multiple officers’ BWV.

<sup>12</sup> Several loud “bangs” can be heard on officers’ BWV as they approached Anderson and [REDACTED]. Due to the chaotic nature of the situation, the amount of noise from the officers entering the apartment, and the noise generated by SWAT officers trying to enter through the north door, it is unknown if any of these sounds were from Anderson’s revolver. LAPD FID’s investigation concluded that one of the sounds heard on BWV was Anderson’s handgun discharging, stating, “[A]pproximately five seconds prior to the OIS, a single gunshot can be heard, along with banging from the attempted breach at [the north door].”

believed the officers had shot Anderson. She stated, “All of a sudden, I knew I was safe because I felt his body go limp. And I opened up my eyes, and blood was just pouring out of his neck, and he was just staring at me.”<sup>13</sup>

At 6:45:42 p.m., Roca, Dominguez, and Burroughs moved west toward the pillar Anderson and [REDACTED] were behind.<sup>14</sup>



*Figure 6 – Still image from Burroughs’ BWV depicting Roca and Dominguez walking west around a pillar. Anderson held [REDACTED] hostage on the north side of the pillar.*

At 6:45:45 p.m., Valle briefly paused on the east side of the pillar, where Anderson appeared to be lying on his side or stomach.

<sup>13</sup> A post-mortem examination of Anderson determined he sustained a non-fatal self-inflicted gunshot wound near his right ear during the incident. Multiple officers described Anderson shooting himself after [REDACTED] had been extracted and simultaneous to or following the officers discharging their duty rifles. LAPD’s FID investigation concluded the timing of Anderson’s self-inflicted gunshot wound “could not be determined.”

<sup>14</sup> Although Ng entered the apartment second, he immediately turned left into the kitchen area and then trailed behind several other officers.





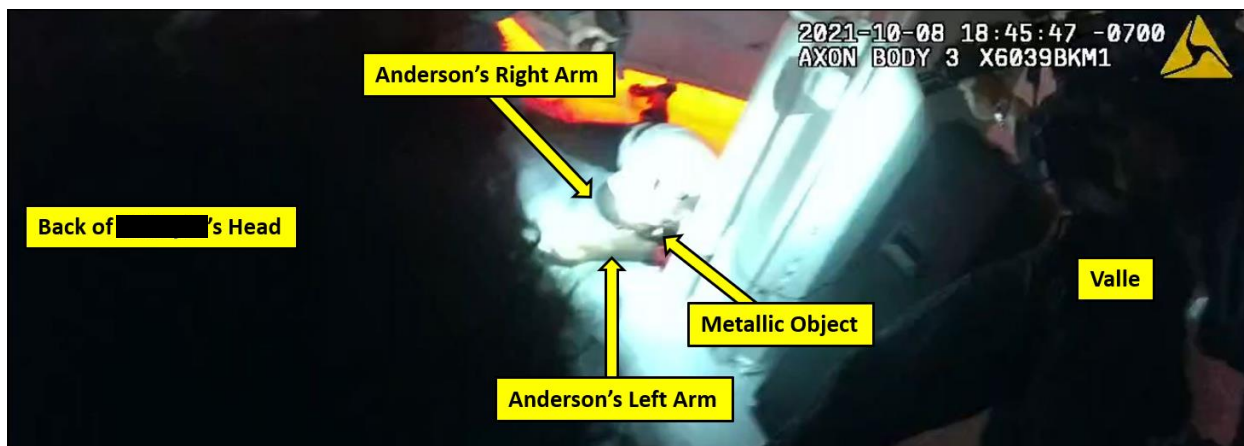
*Figure 7 – Still image from Valle’s BWV depicting Anderson lying on his side or stomach as the officers approached.*

Roca and Dominguez continued to the west side of the pillar and pointed their rifles at Anderson as [REDACTED] backed away from Anderson toward the officers. Burroughs stood near the southwest corner of the pillar.



*Figure 8 – Still image taken from Burroughs’ BWV depicting [REDACTED] backing away from Anderson. Anderson’s right foot can be seen.*

Dominguez and Burroughs stood on the west side of the pillar and were joined by Valle. At approximately 6:45:47, Burroughs pulled [REDACTED] away from Anderson and yelled, “Gun! Gun! Gun! Gun!”



*Figure 9 – Cropped still image taken from Burroughs' BWV depicting Anderson on his side with his left arm outstretched and his right arm and hand appearing to rest on his left arm. What appears to be a metallic object can be seen in his right hand.*

Valle and Roca discharged their rifles at Anderson, with Valle firing three rounds and Roca firing two.<sup>15</sup> Anderson was struck in his right rear scalp, the right rear side of his neck, his left biceps, and twice in his left shoulder.



*Figure 10 – Still image taken from Valle's BWV depicting the lower half of Anderson's body at the time Roca and Valle discharged their rifles.*

As previously discussed in footnote ten, Roca's BWV was off. Dominguez' BWV was obstructed by his hands and rifle during the officer-involved shooting, and Valle's BWV only captured the lower half of Anderson's body when shots were fired. Dobine was also in the area and facing Anderson when shots were fired, but Valle's back obstructed Dobine's BWV.

<sup>15</sup> According to LAPD FID's investigation, a sound graph analysis was conducted on Valle's BWV and determined all rounds were fired within 1.247 seconds of one another.

Therefore, no video clearly depicts Anderson's actions immediately preceding and during Roca and Valle's rifle discharges.<sup>16</sup>

Burroughs later told investigators what he observed before and during the officer-involved shooting.<sup>17</sup>

I come to the right side of the concrete pillar and pick up the suspect, the back half of his head, but he falls. I'm not sure why he fell, but he ends up falling down ... I come around to the other side [of the pillar] ... I grab her [REDACTED], kinda pull her out of the way. I see the suspect [Anderson] holding a gun in his hand, right hand, finger on the trigger. I remember him—or I believe I—I believe I remember seeing him fire one shot towards the floor while he was on the ground. He's laying on his left side. There was an engagement [Roca and Valle discharging their rifles]. I don't remember how many rounds were fired. And then I remember seeing the suspect with the gun still in his right hand. He brings the gun up to his face. I remember him pulling the trigger."

Burroughs later clarified that Anderson's handgun was initially pointed toward the officers, and he believed Anderson had fired a round from the floor "in our direction."<sup>18</sup> Anderson then pointed his revolver toward his cheek and shot himself simultaneous with Roca and Valle discharging their rifles. During a second interview, Burroughs stated the following regarding Anderson shooting himself:

I believe he self-inflicted himself just because of, you know, it looked like a—it looked like a muzzle blast disturbed the flesh, but at the same time, I believe our officers are engaging as well, and I don't know if there was impacts, you know, in the same area.

Following the incident, investigators interviewed Dominguez.<sup>19</sup> Dominguez recalled seeing Anderson crouching behind the pillar, hearing two to three shots he believed were fired by officers and then seeing Anderson fall to the ground on his left side. Following the officers' rifle discharges, Anderson put his revolver to the right side of his head and pulled the trigger.

LAPD investigators also interviewed Dobine, who was positioned to see Anderson prior to the officer-involved shooting.<sup>20</sup> According to Dobine, when he moved toward the pillar, he observed two SWAT officers pointing their rifles down at Anderson, who was lying on his stomach. Dobine moved west of the pillar behind Valle where he saw something "shiny" in Anderson's right hand and blood on his shoulder. [REDACTED] screamed, causing Dobine to look over his shoulder at her. While looking away, he heard two to three gunshots. Dobine stated, "I assumed he [Anderson] moved, but I have no idea what happened because I looked away momentarily."

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<sup>16</sup> The quality of the officers' BWV was also adversely affected by significant glare from rifle-mounted lights and blurring caused by the officers' quick movements.

<sup>17</sup> This interview was recorded.

<sup>18</sup> In a second interview, Burroughs explained that the gun was not pointed down at the floor but "angled kind of parallel to the deck almost at like a glancing angle."

<sup>19</sup> This interview was recorded.

<sup>20</sup> This interview was recorded.

Although Valle's compelled statement was not reviewed for this analysis, his public safety statement was inadvertently recorded on his BWV. During the statement, Valle recalled seeing Anderson on the ground pointing a revolver in his direction when he fired two to three rounds at him. Valle was unsure if Anderson fired any rounds at him.

Approximately 18 seconds after the officer-involved shooting, Dominguez' BWV shows Anderson lying on the floor with a revolver in his right hand.<sup>21</sup> Anderson's right hand is no longer resting upon his left arm but is lying on the floor holding the revolver, which is pointed toward the right side of his face. Shortly thereafter, SWAT officers removed the firearm from Anderson's hand, handcuffed him, and requested the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) respond to the scene. At approximately 6:48 p.m., two officers certified as emergency medical technicians began medically assessing Anderson and determined he had no heartbeat. LAFD firefighter paramedics arrived, and Paramedic Mason Patrick declared Anderson deceased at 6:57 p.m.

### Autopsy and Gunshot Wound Analysis

An autopsy was performed on October 13, 2021, by Deputy Medical Examiner Richard Ou. The cause of death was determined to be gunshot wounds. Anderson sustained six entrance gunshot wounds. One entrance wound was to the right preauricular skin, and a deformed lead projectile was removed from the right temporalis muscle and preserved for ballistics testing.<sup>22</sup> The projectile traveled from front to back, right to left, and upward. Soot was observed, and Ou concluded a close-range gunshot caused the wound. The skull was not fractured, and the projectile did not enter the cranial cavity. The other entrance wounds were located on Anderson's right rear scalp, rear neck, left bicep, and two to the left shoulder. These wounds were associated with injuries to the skull, brain, and right internal jugular vein. Toxicology results indicated the presence of cocaine, amphetamine, and methamphetamine in Anderson's blood at the time of the incident.

On November 23, 2021, Senior Criminalist Samantha Ingalls reported the findings of her evaluation of a skin specimen taken from Anderson's right ear area. Ingalls observed a small central stellate defect.<sup>23</sup> Black particulates visually consistent with soot were observed at the internal and external edges of the defect and in the wound track. Yellowish-green particles visually consistent with gunpowder were present at the external edge of the defect and throughout the wound track. Ingalls concluded, "The presence of particles visually consistent with soot and gunpowder at the external margin of the stellate wound and in the wound track may indicate close proximity (contact or near contact) to the discharge of a firearm."

### Ballistics Evidence

Investigators recovered a Smith and Wesson 22 Long Rifle (LR) caliber model 34-1 revolver from Anderson's right hand. The revolver's cylinder contained two discharged casings and four live rounds. One of the live rounds in the cylinder had three firing pin impressions, while

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<sup>21</sup> No officers touched Anderson between the officer-involved shooting and this time. Due to the graphic nature of the image, it is not included in this memorandum.

<sup>22</sup> The right preauricular skin is the skin located in front of the right ear canal.

<sup>23</sup> A stellate (star-shaped) wound defect may indicate the discharge of a firearm in contact with the head.

another had two firing pin impressions.<sup>24</sup> The rounds recovered from the cylinder were headstamped with the Rheinisch Westfalischen Sprengstoff (RWS) headstamp logo. Fifteen 22 LR caliber live rounds headstamped with the RWS logo and one live 22 LR round headstamped “C” were recovered from Anderson’s front left pants pocket. Two additional 22 LR caliber discharged casings headstamped with the RWS logo were recovered from the loft’s floor.<sup>25</sup>

On February 10, 2022, LAPD Forensic Science Division Criminalist Fadil Biraimah finalized a report documenting his bullet and cartridge case comparisons. In the report, Biraimah documented his examination of the bullet removed from Anderson’s right temple. Biraimah concluded it was “consistent with a bullet from ammunition designated 22 Long Rifle.” Biraimah also found the bullet exhibited physical characteristics consistent with “a hard surface impact at a significantly lower than typical velocity” and noted, “Comparable bullet damage has been demonstrated at velocities which are barely sufficient for skin penetration.” Biraimah contributed “deteriorated ammunition” as the presumptive cause of the lower than typical velocity.

Five 5.56 x 45mm caliber casings discharged from Roca and Valle’s department-issued 5.56 x 45mm caliber Heckler & Koch model HK416D rifles were recovered from the apartment’s floor.

## **LEGAL ANALYSIS**

A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons: (1) to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person; or (2) to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended. Penal Code section 835a(c)(1)(A) & (B).

A threat of death or serious bodily injury is imminent when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed. Penal Code section 835a(e)(2).

When considering the totality of the circumstances, all facts known to or perceived by the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force, are taken into consideration. Penal Code section 835a(a)(4) & (e)(3). The peace

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<sup>24</sup> The presence of firing pin impressions on a live round may indicate the firearm failed to discharge (misfired) after the trigger was pulled.

<sup>25</sup> ██████ told investigators that Anderson reloaded the revolver at one point while she was being held hostage in the apartment.

officer's decision to use force is not evaluated with the benefit of hindsight and shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force. Penal Code section 835a(a)(4).

In this case, Anderson went on a violent crime spree that included an attempted carjacking, attempted robberies, and attempted murders. Anderson then fled the police and entered an apartment building where he took a woman hostage by using physical force and a firearm. Anderson barricaded the apartment and later held a gun to [REDACTED]'s head while threatening to kill her, prompting LAPD SWAT officers to forcefully enter the residence. While officers entered, Anderson continued to threaten to kill [REDACTED] as he grabbed her and forced her to hide with him behind a large pillar in the apartment.

[REDACTED], multiple officers, and BWV establish that Anderson was holding a firearm in his right hand when officers extracted [REDACTED] from behind the pillar. According to Burroughs, Anderson's revolver was pointed toward the officers when he yelled, "Gun!" multiple times. Valle also stated Anderson's handgun was pointed in his direction prior to discharging his rifle. Although Anderson's actions immediately preceding the officer-involved shooting were not captured on video, the weight of the available evidence suggests he pointed his revolver toward the officers, whether done intentionally to cause them harm or incidentally while in the process of shooting himself.

The evidence establishes Anderson shot himself in the right side of his face at some point during the incident, resulting in a non-fatal injury. A definitive determination as to when Anderson shot himself cannot be made due to the lack of clear BWV preceding the officer-involved shooting and discrepancies in the statements given by [REDACTED] and the involved officers, likely caused by the chaotic nature of the events. Nonetheless, the timing of Anderson's non-fatal gunshot does not significantly alter the reasonableness and necessity of the officer's actions given the other factors discussed, including his continued possession, movement, and pointing of the firearm.

Anderson's erratic and violent behavior leading up to the SWAT officers' contact with him evidenced the danger he posed to [REDACTED] and the officers. Therefore, a reasonable police officer would believe Anderson had the ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to cause death or seriously bodily injury when they saw his revolver pointed toward them. Given the imminent threat Anderson posed to [REDACTED] and the officers, combined with the chaotic and exigent nature of the incident, the use of other non-deadly force options was not reasonably safe or feasible. As such, Roca and Valle's use of deadly force in response to Anderson's imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury was reasonable and necessary in the defense of human life.

## CONCLUSION

We find that Officers Eddie Roca and Luis Valle acted lawfully in self-defense and the defense of others when they used deadly force against Rudy Anderson.